

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 (Act No. 08 of 2026)

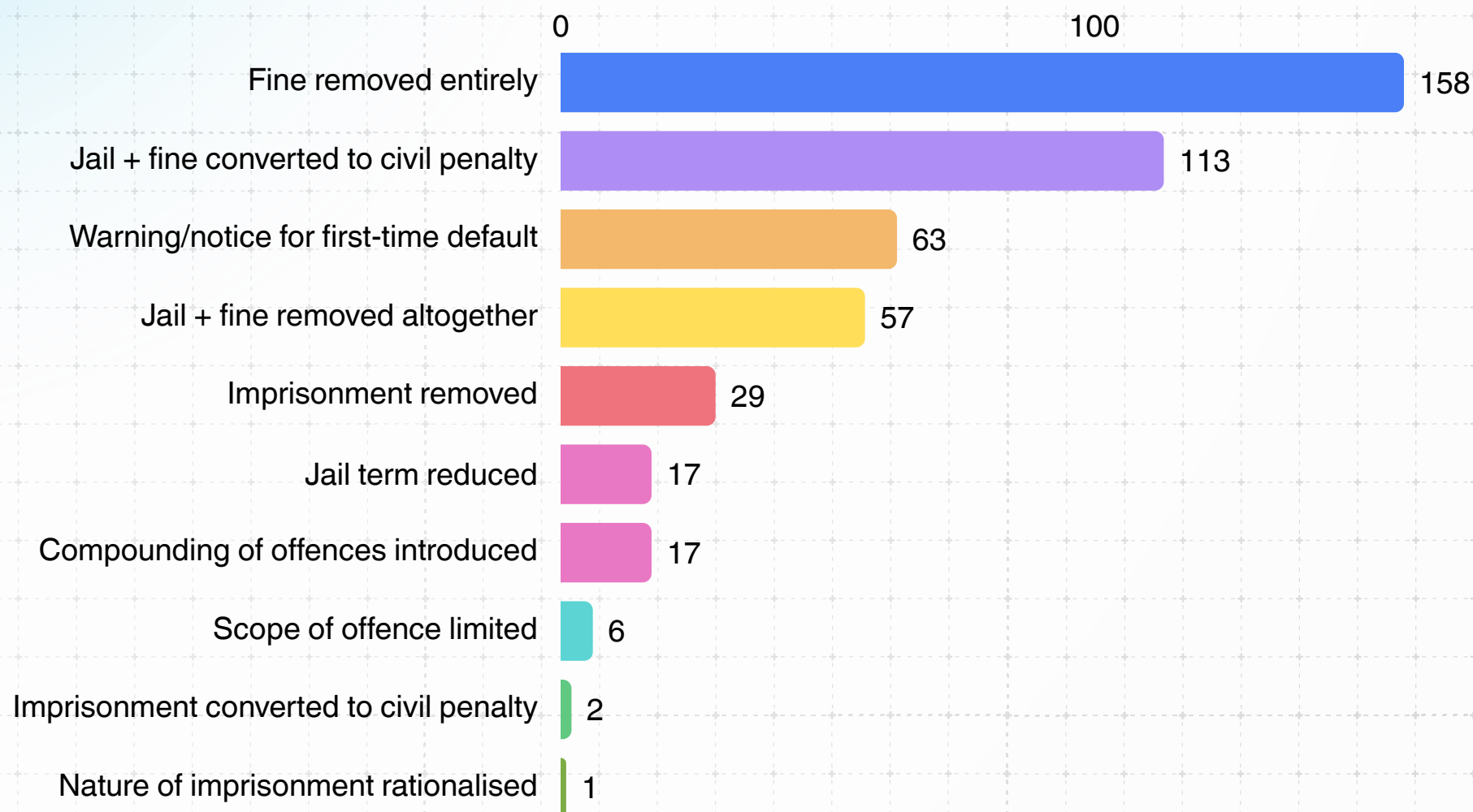
What it is

A sweeping legislative reform proposing amendments across **79 Central Acts under 23 Ministries, covering 784 provisions** building on the *Jan Vishwas Act, 2023* which had **decriminalized 183 provisions across 42 Acts**.

Core idea

Replace criminal penalties (jail, fines) for minor/procedural violations with civil penalties, warnings, or administrative mechanisms.

How Provisions Are Being Changed



Below Table presents a comparative chart on following three **change type** across few of the important Acts.

- Imprisonment removed
- Jail term reduced
- Jail + fine removed altogether



CATEGORY 1: Sections where Imprisonment has been REMOVED after Amendment

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
1.	The Cattle Trespass Act, 1871	Section 24	Damaging or causing damage to land, crops, or public roads by allowing cattle to trespass (where owner/keeper acts in contravention)	On conviction before a Magistrate, punishable with imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, or with fine not exceeding five hundred rupees, or with both	On being found in default by the adjudicating officer, liable to penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees
2.	The Cattle Trespass Act, 1871	Section 27	Contravention of provisions relating to impounded cattle / other general contraventions of the Act	Punishable on conviction before a Magistrate with fine not exceeding fifty rupees	On being found in default by the adjudicating officer, liable to penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees
3.	The Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882	Section 68	Contempt / acts prejudicial to the authority of the Court (penalty imposed on any relevant person)	On conviction before a Presidency Magistrate, liable to fine which may extend to five hundred rupees and imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, in addition to any other liability	Liable to such penalty as may be imposed by the adjudicating officer
4.	The Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882	Section 87	Refusal to answer questions or produce documents as required by the Court	Court may sentence the person to simple imprisonment for up to seven days or commit to custody of an officer of the Court, and on persisting may be dealt with under CrPC provisions	Liable to penalty as may be imposed by the adjudicating officer
5.	The Indian Succession Act, 1925	Section 296(2)	Contravention of provisions related to executor/administrator obligations under the section	Fine up to one thousand rupees, or imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with both	Fine up to ten thousand rupees

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
6.	The Indian Succession Act, 1925	Section 389(2)	Contravention of provisions related to executor/administrator obligations under the section	Fine up to one thousand rupees, or imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with both	Fine up to ten thousand rupees
7.	The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940	Section 27A(ii)	Import, manufacture, sale etc. of cosmetics not of standard quality or misbranded, adulterated or spurious cosmetics	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty of one lakh rupees or three times the value of the cosmetics confiscated, whichever is higher
8.	The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940	Section 28A	Obstruction of an Inspector in discharge of his duties under the Act	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than twenty thousand rupees or with both	Liable to penalty which shall not be less than three lakh rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees
9.	The Central Silk Board Act, 1948	Section 14(1) (clause b omitted; long line substitute d)	Contravention of provisions of the Act / rules made thereunder (general contraventions including acts in cl.a and c)	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both	Warned at first instance; in case of continuing/repeated contraventions, liable to penalty of not less than twenty-five thousand rupees but may extend to one lakh rupees
10.	The Reserve and Auxiliary Air Forces Act, 1952	Section 30(2)	More serious contravention under section 30 (e.g., failure to comply with directions / willful neglect of duty)	Punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to one lakh rupees

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
11.	The Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Act, 1960	Section 23(1)	Contravention of the provisions of the Act (primary offence under s.23(1))	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees	Liable to penalty which may extend to ten thousand rupees
12.	The Administrators-General Act, 1963	Section 34(2)	Failure to comply with provisions / obligations of the Administrator-General's functions under the section	Imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both	Fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees
13.	The Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966	Section 16(2)	Default by employer in paying contributions or failing to comply with provisions of the Act/Scheme (second category)	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to one lakh rupees
14.	The Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966	Section 16(3)	Further/repeat defaults or other contraventions (third category of default)	Punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to one lakh rupees
15.	The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972	Section 30	Any person acquiring, retaining or dealing with any property or benefit in contravention of the Act	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to fifty lakh rupees or the value of the property, whichever is higher; with further penalty of fifty thousand rupees everyday for continuing contravention
16	The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988	Section 161(4)(b)	Failure to give information relating to motor accident by driver / owner when required	Punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years, or with fine which shall not be less than twenty-five thousand rupees but may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
17	The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988	Section 179(2)	Failure to comply with directions/requirements of an authority/officer under the Act	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which shall not be less than five hundred rupees but which may extend to two thousand rupees
18	The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988	Section 182(2)	Obtaining driving licence by making a false statement or misrepresentation	Punishable with imprisonment for term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty of ten thousand rupees
19	The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988	Section 192A(1)	Using a vehicle not covered by a certificate of fitness	Punishable for the first offence with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or a fine of ten thousand rupees, or with both; and for subsequent offence with imprisonment which may extend to one year but shall not be less than six months or with fine of ten thousand rupees or with both	Liable to penalty of ten thousand rupees for first contravention and penalty of twenty thousand rupees for subsequent contravention
20	The Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002	Section 62(3)	Travelling without ticket or pass or with an invalid ticket (fraudulent travel in metro)	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to ten thousand rupees (imprisonment removed at first instance; retained only on failure to pay penalty)
21	The Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002	Section 64(1)	Trespass upon metro railway premises without lawful authority or refusal to leave	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to five thousand rupees (imprisonment removed at first instance; retained only on failure to pay penalty)

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
22	The Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002	Section 71	Causing damage to metro railway property or endangering safety of passengers	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months	Liable to penalty which may extend to twenty thousand rupees
23	The Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002	Section 72	Obstructing or hindering a metro railway official in the performance of duties	Punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two months or with fine up to two hundred and fifty rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to twenty thousand rupees
24	The Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002	Section 75	Endangering safety by tampering with equipment, signal gear, etc.	Punishable for a term which may extend to three months, or fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees
25	The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002	Section 39(1)	Unauthorised occupation of national highway land	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which shall not be less than one thousand rupees per square metre of occupied highway land but which shall not exceed two times the cost of such land, or with both	Liable to penalty imposed by the Highway Administration which shall not be less than five thousand rupees per square metre of the land unauthorisedly occupied but which may extend to the cost of such land
26	The Electricity Act, 2003	Section 146	Contravention of provisions of the Act for which no specific penalty is prescribed (general provision)	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both	Fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to ten lakh rupees

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
27	The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013	Section 16(7)	Failure/refusal to furnish information, books or other documents as required by PFRDA	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to twenty-five crore rupees, or with both; and further fine of up to ten lakh rupees per day for continuing failure	Liable to penalty which may extend to twenty-five crore rupees; and further penalty of up to ten lakh rupees per day for continuing failure
28	The Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021	Section 41(1)	Contravention of provisions relating to aids to navigation or failure to comply with orders/directions under the Act	Liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend up to six months or with fine which may extend up to one lakh rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend up to one lakh rupees
29	The Coastal Shipping Act, 2025	Section 16	Contravention of provisions relating to manning or certification requirements for coastal vessels	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine	Liable to penalty
30	The Coastal Shipping Act, 2025	Section 18	Failure to comply with directions/regulations under the Act (general provision for coastal shipping)	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both	Liable to penalty which may extend to two lakh rupees

CATEGORY 2: Sections where the Jail Term has been REDUCED after Amendment

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
1.	The Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966	Section 16(1)	Default by employer in not paying contributions to the Fund / other primary offences under sub-section (1)	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year	Imprisonment reduced to a term which may extend to six months
2.	The Works of Defence Act, 1903	Section 36(2) (new sub-section)	Obstruction of an authorised person by force or physical interference preventing exercise of lawful power or performing lawful duty, or contravention of section 7 / conditions thereunder	Imprisonment for up to one year or fine up to Rs. 2,500 with additional fine of Rs. 250 per day	Imprisonment up to one month, or fine up to two thousand and five hundred rupees (and additional fine of Rs. 250 per day).
3.	The Disaster Management Act, 2005	Section 51	Refusal/obstruction to comply with directions of the Government / authorised authority during disaster	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year; and if obstruction results in loss of lives or imminent danger thereof, imprisonment up to two years	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and if obstruction results in loss of lives or imminent danger, imprisonment up to one year
4.	The Disaster Management Act, 2005	Section 52	False claims for obtaining any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months
5.	The Disaster Management Act, 2005	Section 53	Misappropriation of money or material meant for relief, assistance, or reconstruction	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
6.	The Railways Act, 1989	Section 146	Endangering the safety of any person travelling by or being upon a railway	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand and five hundred rupees
7.	The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006	Section 60	Obstructing / impersonating / threatening a food safety officer in the discharge of his duties	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months
8.	The Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines Act, 1962	Section 15(1)(b)	Second or subsequent contravention: wilful obstruction, damage, filling of trench or doing prohibited acts	Earlier the single provision covered all contraventions with: imprisonment up to ten years and fine up to one lakh rupees	For second or subsequent contravention: imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.
9.	The Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines Act, 1962	Section 15(2)	Causing grievous hurt or attempting to cause grievous hurt while committing obstruction/damage	Imprisonment for a term of not less than ten years	Imprisonment for a term of not less than three years
10.	The Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines Act, 1962	Section 15(4)	Causing death or attempting to cause death while committing obstruction/damage	Imprisonment for a term of not less than ten years but may extend to imprisonment for life or death	Imprisonment for a term of not less than five years but may extend to imprisonment for life

CATEGORY 3: Sections where Both Imprisonment AND Fine have been Removed after Amendment

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
1	The Coir Industry Act, 1953	Sections 20, 21 & 22 (omitted)	Sections 20-22 dealt with offences and penalties under section 12 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953	Criminal punishment - imprisonment and/or fine for contraventions	All three sections omitted
2	The Copyright Act, 1957	Section 67 (omitted)	Penalty for making false entries in register, etc., for producing or tendering false entries	Imprisonment which may extend to one year, or fine, or with both	Section 67 entirely omitted
3	The Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981	Sections 11 & 12 (omitted)	Unlawful fishing / fishing by foreign vessels in violation of permit / licence (Sections 11 and 12 provided penalties)	Sections 11 : punishable with fine not exceeding rupees ten lakhs. Section 12: fine not exceeding rupees five, lakhs; and with fine not exceeding rupees fifty thousand in other cases.	Both sections entirely omitted. Section 15 (which remains) now provides only fine for obstructing the authorised officers
4	The Patents Act, 1970	Section 119 (omitted)	Contravention of certain secrecy provisions relating to inventions - failure to comply with directions under secrecy orders	Criminal punishment - imprisonment and/or fine (s.12); additional penalties (s.20(2))	Section 119 entirely omitted; no replacement criminal or penalty provision. Section 118 is retained for contravention of secrecy provisions but section 119's independent offence is removed

Sl. No.	Name of the Act	Section Amended	Offence	Punishment Before Amendment	Punishment After Amendment
5	The Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005	Section 12 & Section 20(2) (omitted)	Section 12: Offences by companies (imprisonment and fine provisions). Section 20(2): Power of State Governments to prescribe additional penalties	Criminal punishment - imprisonment and/or fine (s.12); additional penalties (s.20(2))	Both sections/sub-sections omitted.
6	The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006	Section 44 (omitted)	Offence by companies - imprisonment and fine for directors/officers in charge	Criminal punishment - imprisonment and/or fine	Section 44 entirely omitted.
7	The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021	Chapter VII & Section 64 (omitted)	Chapter VII contained offences and penalties including criminal provisions; Section 64 related to penalties/punishments	Criminal punishment - imprisonment and/or fine as prescribed in Chapter VII and section 64	Entire Chapter VII and section 64 omitted.